





























HURRY, TED!







A COUPLE MORE































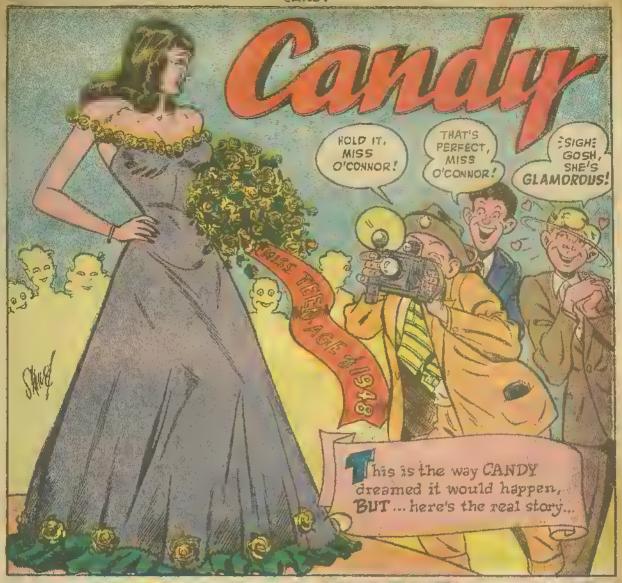








































































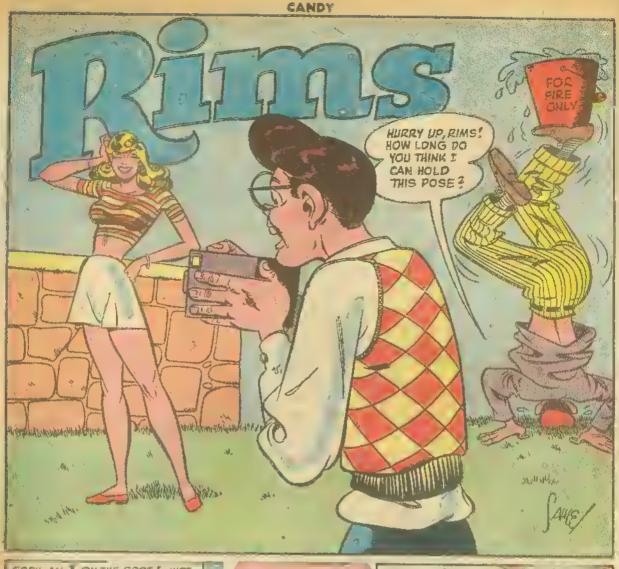






































































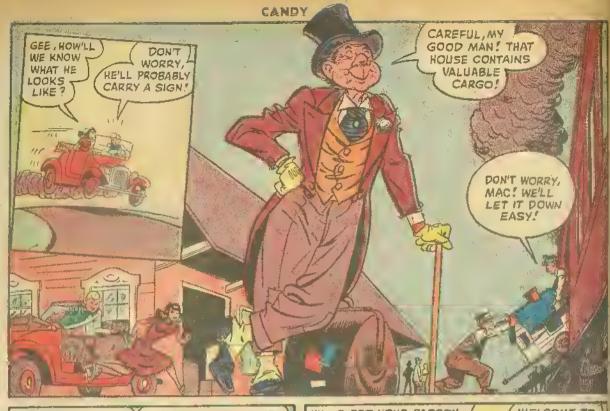










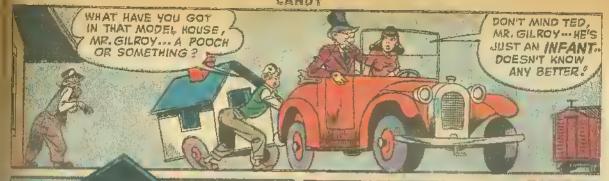


































I BELIEVE YOU WERE SAYING HOW MUCH
PRIOE YOU TOOK IN YOUR HOME, MRS.
C'CONNOR! YOU SAID YOU HOPEO IT
WOULD SERVE AS A TYPICAL EXAMPLE
FOR ALL THE RESIDENTS
OF HARTWICK!
HMMM!









































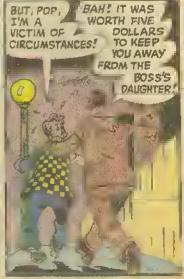












VACATION (INT.) THE PLANT

THE trailer had been a beauty—shiny and sleek. But now, as it jounced down the rutted trail, it resembled an enormous dusty bug, covered with a layer of white alkali powder.

Death Valley!

Candy O'Connor clung to the wheel of her small coupe, trying to keep it in the twin ruts that formed the trail. Behind her the trailer hitch squeaked and clanked.

"Oh, it's beautiful even if it is a desert!" esied Candy, as she gazed rapturously around the sere landscape. Trish, her rather bookish girlfriend, sat on the seat beside her, oblivious of her surroundings, not even hearing Candy speak. She was deep in a book.

"Trish!" cried Candy. "How can you, with all this beauty everywhere?" She gave Trish a poke in the ribs.

"Huh?" said Trish blankly, peering through her glasses. "What?"

"What!" squealed Candy, "Look! You havea't seen any of it. It's Death Valley!"

Trish nodded unconcernedly as she gave a hasty glance at the burned-out hills and the long stretch of white desert floor toward which they were going. "Ugly, isn't it?" was her comment.

Candy made a face in the rear-view mirror. She had hoped this would be the vacation to end all vacations. The West—the great wide-open spaces. Death Valley!

And there sat Trish, with her nose buried in a dull old book! Oh, well. . . .

That evening the two girls backed their trailer into a space between dusty ocotillo bushes, got out the gear and began preparing dinner. They had just begun making flapjacks when a tinkling bell caused both of them to look up. An old man was coming down an arroyo, leading a wizened burro which was loaded with the implements of a prospector.

"Oh, look, Trish," whispered Candy, "an old desert rat! He's coming toward us."

The old man came up and halted his burro. "Howdy, gals," he said. "Just in time fer chow, I see."

"W-why, yes," said Candy a little timidly. She knew nothing about these old desert characters, only what little she had read. "Come and join us."

The old man pulled some pans off the burro. "Ever eat any sour-dough hiscuite?" he asked.

Candy said no.

"Then I'll stir up some ef ye don't mind."

The old prospector went about preparing his biscuits, and in a moment they were baking on a piece of tin the oldster supplied from his pack.

Candy finished the bacon and began pouring coffee into tin cups. The biscuits were finished. The old man took them off the piece of tin and laid two on each girl's plate.

"Sink your fangs into 'em," he said with a grin, "Ain't nothin' ever beat 'em,"

He was right, the girls soon found. They thoroughly enjoyed the biscuits, and the old prospector, too. After dinner, he leaned back, filled and lit his pipe, and began talking.

"Out here on a little pasear?" he asked.

"We're on our vacation," Trish told him.

The old man puffed hard on his pipe. "Ye picked a mighty dry place, gals. An' spooky."

"Spooky?" said Candy, "You mean-"

"Spooks," said the old man casually. "This place is full of 'em—spooks of dead Injuns and trappers and prospectors. They all gather around campfires at night and hold meetins. Chances is some of 'em'll be here tonight."

The girls gave a quick glance around. It was growing dark rapidly. The soft mauve shades of evening were growing into a deep purple. Far down to the west a red-gold flame seared the horizon, but it, too, quickly faded out.

Spooks!

The old man at last rolled himself in his blankets and closed his eyes. "Might just as well git some shut-eye," he said drowsily. "Good night, gals."

"G-g-good night," replied Candy. She gave another glance around, imagined she saw a moving shadow, and gave a little gasp. The old man chuckled to himself.

"Don't worzy none, miss. I don't think any

spooks is gonas visit us in partic'lar tonight. Better sleep."

The girls did get to sleep after a long time. While they slept, the old man gor up and silently went down the valley with his burro, whose bell he had removed. It was the dark bour before dawn.

Candy opened her eyes first. It was cold, as it always gets in the desert at dawn. She sat up and yawned. The valley a few miles away was already alight. Candy rubbed her eyes and looked again. Then, with a strangled yelp, she began shaking Trish.

"Trish, Trish! Wake up!"

Trish came to her senses muttering sleepily.

"What's going on?" she asked a bit testily.

"I'm sleepy."

"Look down in the valley!" cried Candy, pointing.

Trish looked. What she saw brought a gasp from her.

"My gosh," said said, "a wagon train being attacked by Indians! They're circling the wagons and the white men are firing! What is this? I thought wagon trains were a thing of the past. And the Indians—where did they come from?"

Candy couldn't speak for a moment. "D-do you suppose, Trish," she quavered, "that we're just seeing things—that they're spooks, like the old prospector said?"

Trish shook her head vigorously. "Bunk. I can hear the shooting. Ghosts don't make noises. That's the real thing. But I can't figure it out."

The wagon train was now formed in a right circle, from which flashes of fire and black smoke issued at quick intervals—rifle fire.

The Indians rode fast, shooting arrows at the white canvas tops. Occasionally the girls could see an Indian topple from his horse and roll over the ground, victim of a bullet.

"Yes," said Candy, "it's the real thing, all right. Look at the dead Indians!"

Suddenly one of the wagon tops burst into flame. They heard the wild yells of the Indians and a vicious burst of rifle fire.

"The Indians have fired a blazing arrow into a wagon," said Trish, "just like they used to do in the old days. If the whole train catches fire, it'll be bad for those poor folks."

"There come more Indians!" exclaimed Candy, pointing to a large group of fast-moving horsemen approaching over a low hill.

A great yell broke from the Indians at the sight of their reinforcements. And now the two parties joined forces against the wagon train. "They'll be wiped out," said Trish. "They haven't a chance against so many Indians."

Candy suddenly yelped again. "Look, Trish! Soldiers!"

Ir was true. A company of blue-clad cavalry came galloping over the hill behind the second party of Indians. Their bugles sounded the charge. They stormed down upon the Indians, their pistols squirting smoke. The Indians pulled up, made a half hearted charge, then scattered in every direction. But not before several more had fallen from their horses. Two cavalrymen also lay on the ground.

"Well," breathed Trish, "I do believe the cavalry chased them off. But look, Candy—those soldiers are dressed in the style of the early eighties! What is this? Did we get into some fourth dimension, where time is turned backward?"

"Howdy, gals!"

Candy and Trish whirled around. The old prospector stood near by, holding the rein of his sleepy burro. He grinned.

"The spooks waited till daylight to come," he said matter-of-factly. "But the cavalry did fer the Injuns plenty fast, eh?"

The girls couldn't talk for a moment. Then Trish gasped, "But I don't understand. That's like something that happened sixty years ago! Where are we, Mister? Are we crazy?"

"Nope," said the old man. "An' ye ain't seein' things thet ain't there. Know what ye seen just now?"

The girls shook their heads in unison.

"Wal, I'll tell ye," said the prospector. He removed his hat and whiskers with a flourish and bowed. The girls saw with a start that his hair was black, that he was clean-shaven under the false beard.

When he straightened, he was smiling...

"I'm Jack O'Brien, at your service," said the pseudo-prospector with a chuckle. "I was the leader of that wagon train from Missouri to Californy. They call the picture 'Wagon Train."

"Oh!" cried Candy. "It's a movie!"

"Hmm!" snorted Trish. "A fine trick to pull on a couple of Easterners!"

But Candy saw the humor of the joke. She said, sprightly, "It's our breakfast time, Mr. jack O'Brien. How about some more of those sour-dough biscuits—or can't you make 'em out of character?"

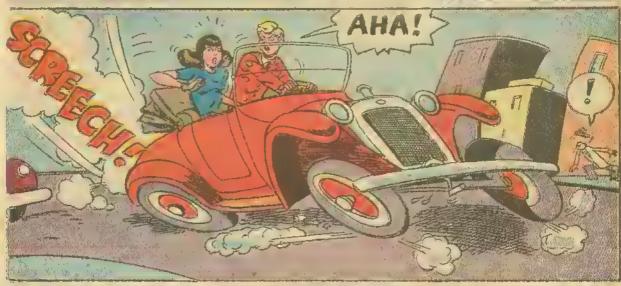
"Can do," said Jack, rolling up his sleeves.
"They're still better'n those cookies in Holly-wood."



















GIVE A GUY A













HMM! THAT HAS RING!



DINNER'S NOW JUST REFUSES READY, WHAT TO GET YOU IS WRONG ME A L TWO! TICKET TO BETWEEN A BIG RADIO YOU TWO, SHOW, AND CANDY? TO USKER FOR IT!

















CANDY



















































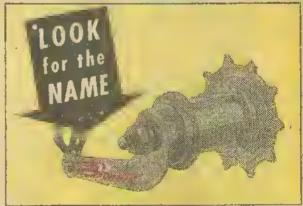




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